

21. Santa Felicia : A,B,C,D,F			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Yes	Michael Creek, a tributary of Piru Creek, is one of the rare places that the federally endangered red-legged frog is known to breed. The Santa Felicia Canyon SEA is virtually unexplored since it has almost no development at this time, and it is probable that other endangered and threatened plant and animal species occur in the SEA.
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	Los Angeles County has lost over half of its original Oak Forests, which is indicative of the loss in the entire region of Southern California, where the impact of development has caused a similar loss in the coast-influenced zone. Riparian Oak Forests are particularly diverse since they are always associated with drainages and water, and this feature means they are imperiled because they are very attractive areas for development and extraction of water. This habitat extends all along Santa Felicia Canyon
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The Angeles National Forest has identified the sensitive community of Riparian Oak Forest for all of the tributaries of Santa Felicia Canyon. Los Angeles County has lost over half of its original Oak Forests. Riparian Oak Forests are particularly diverse since they are always associated with drainages and water, and this feature means they are imperiled because they are very attractive areas for development and extraction of water. This diminishing habitat extends into the chiefly undeveloped Santa Felicia SEA downstream of the Forest.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The SEA encompasses important tributaries of both the Santa Clara River (San Martinez Grande) and Piru Creek (Santa Felicia and Michael Creek). Piru Creek itself is a major tributary of the Santa Clara River. Nearly all of the drainages within the SEA are natural with

			<p>sensitive habitats of all kinds of riparian forest. These drainages are all migratory corridors for both plants and animals that connect the San Gabriel Mountains with the Santa Clara River and the coast. Michael Creek is one of the rare places that the Federally endangered red-legged frog is known to breed.</p>
E	<p>Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.</p>	Yes	<p>The SEA encompasses important tributaries of both the Santa Clara River (San Martinez Grande) and Piru Creek (Santa Felicia and Michael Creek). Piru Creek itself is a major tributary of the Santa Clara River. Nearly all of the drainages within the SEA are natural with sensitive habitats of all kinds of riparian forest. Michael Creek is one of the rare places that the federally endangered red-legged frog is known to breed. These drainages are all migratory corridors for both plants and animals that connect the San Gabriel Mountains with the Santa Clara River and the coast. Santa Felicia Canyon is part of a principal and important wildlife corridor and path of connectivity between the San Gabriel Mountains east of the Santa Clara River and the San Gabriel Mountains west of the Santa Clara River and I-5. This connection has been named "San Gabriel and Castaic Connection" and studied by the South Coast Missing Linkages Project. Areas of connectivity such as this are unique in that the location cannot be duplicated. Further, the linear feature needs protection in entirety to maintain its function. Each area along the drainage contributes a unique and important part of the whole.</p>
F	<p>Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.</p>	Yes	<p>The Santa Felicia SEA probably does not meet this criterion of geographic/biological extremes for SEA status, but the area is little explored biologically.</p>